

## [Hospitals]

4

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one)

PUB. Living Lore in New England

(Connecticut)

TITLE Connecticut Clockmaker ([MacCurrie?]) (Hospital)

WRITER Francis Donovan

DATE 1/4/39 WDS. PP. 4

CHECKER DATE

SOURCES GIVEN (?) Interview

COMMENTS

15092

"Living Lore" Series

Francis Donovan, Thomaston, Connecticut

January 4, 1939 HOSPITALS

Mr. Richmond has been in the hospital for the past two weeks. He has had an operation for the removal of a cataract on his left eye and is wearing a bandage that covers the entire left side of his face. He has been given permission to go out for the first time today,

## Library of Congress

but he says the doctor has warned him not to stay too long, and not to stand around in the open air.

Says he: "Got to go back and have the operation on the other one, soon's this one gets in good shape. Both eyes was pretty bad, but this'n was the worst. Got so I couldn't see nawthin'.

"How'd they treat me? Well, they treated me pretty good, but I didn't like the food. Too much tomatoes in everything. Every damn thing they give me had tomatoes in, seemed like. Told 'em I couldn't eat such stuff. Finally the doctor told 'em. Said I had to avoid anything with acid in it. Then they commenced to give me stuff I could eat. Then it was time to go home.

"Feller in the next bed to me was there for a hernia. He says, 'You're an awful fussy eater.' he says. 'That stuff won't hurt you. Just your imagination,' he says.

"I says, 'It won't, won't it?' I says, 'That's what you think. You keep on eatin' your acid foods and see what it'll get you."

'What'll it get me?' he says: I says, 'Cancer, that's what it'll get you. You look out for a cancer.' He says 'How do you 2 know so much about it?' I says 'From experience, that's how.'

"I been sick all my life, but this is the first time I ever had an operation. I was sick enough to have one many a time. Forty-five years ago, folks didn't believe in operations. Wa'n't no hospitals neither. Nearest one to here was New Haven, but nobody'd go there unless they was dyin' anyway.

"They tried to keep me in bed down there. I wouldn't stay. They put one o' them little short shirts on me. Wouldn't let me go to the toilet, they give me a bottle. I couldn't use it. That

## Library of Congress

night I got up and put on a pair of pee-jamas. Feller in the next bed says to me 'Where you goin'?' I says, 'B'God, I'm goin' to the toilet.' He says, 'I wish I could.'

The orderly came in next mornin' and give me a bottle. I says, 'No more of those things for me.' When the doctor came around he says 'I guess this feller can get up,' The orderly says, 'He was up last night'. The doctor laughed, he says, 'Well, I guess it didn't hurt him none.'

"Said the job he done on me was one of the best he ever done. I knew what was goin' on the whole time, you know. They took a stitch in my eyelid to hold it but it kept ridin' up. They kept sayin' 'Look down, look down!' In a little while the doctor says to the interne, 'See that brown thing on the end of the knife?' Interne says yes. 'Well,' says the doctor, 'that's it.'

"Well, I got to go home. They told me to keep bathin' it every day in warm water. Soon's the bandage comes off, I got to go down and get fitted for glasses."

3

Mr. MacCurrie, whose feud with Mr. Richmond has been long standing, has been listening to the radio during the monologue of his erstwhile friend. Upon Mr. Richmond's departure, he clicks it off.

"I bet Richmond had them nurses crazy doon there," he says. "That mon's the fussiest eater you ever see. If he goes in a restaurant, he has to go oot in the kitchen and see everything cooked.

"He's been complainin' of sickness all his life, but I think he's as healthy as I am.

"Well---did you hear the President's speech? He claims this country should be an eighty billion dollar country instead of a sixty billion country. That's a fine thing, if they can do it. Of coorse everything is up to Congress, he's leavin' everything up to them.

## Library of Congress

"He's a smart mon. He knows he hasn't got the hold on Congress he used to have, and he's not goin' to try to fight 'em. He'll give 'em the responsibility and let them take the blame.

"I been listenin' to Baldwin. He's givin' quite a talk over in the State Capital. Remember what I was tellin' you the other day, aboot doin' away with small town coorts? He spoke about that.

"Mon 'twill be a fine thing if they do away with 'em. That's the same system the pilgrims had, did you know that? It's a farce, that's what it is, a farce. He spoke about puttin' in a 4 system of audits for towns and cities you remember I was talkin' about that, too, not long ago. Then there won't be no more o' this graftin' withoot the people knowin' about it, at least.

"And he wants to do away with the automobile inspections, and that'll be a good thing too. Yes, he's got quite a program there. If he'll only put it all through, that's the next thing. They all make a lot of promises. We'll just have to wait and see, that's all, wait and see."